

What is Claimed is:

- [c1] The method of fabricating a free standing object comprising the steps of:
forming an open mesh substrate into a three-dimensional free standing object generally having the shape and appearance of the desired finished object; and
thermally spraying the free standing shaped mesh with a coating material to substantially cover all of the exposed surface of the substrate to form a substantially continuous layer of coating material.
- [c2] The method of claim 1 wherein the open mesh substrate is a wire mesh.
- [c3] The method of claim 2 wherein the wire is formed of woven copper, aluminum, carbon steel or stainless steel.
- [c4] The method of claim 1 wherein the coating material comprises a metal.
- [c5] The method of claim 4 wherein the metal is a substantially pure metal.
- [c6] The method of claim 5 wherein the metal is zinc.
- [c7] The method of claim 4 wherein the metal is an alloy.
- [c8] The method of claim 1 wherein the coating material comprises a wire.
- [c9] The method of claim 1 wherein the coating material comprises a powder.
- [c10] The method of claim 8 wherein the thermal spraying step comprises an electric arc wire spray method.

- [c11] The method of claim 10 wherein the coating material comprises two similar or dissimilar conductive wires.
- [c12] The method of claim 1 wherein the mesh substrate has both concave and convex compound surfaces.
- [c13] The method of claim 1 wherein the coating material is chosen from the group consisting of: aluminum, copper, molybdenum, tin and zinc, alloys of aluminum, copper, iron and nickel, and metal oxides, including aluminum oxide, chrome oxide, titanium oxide and zirconium oxide.